

Message Text

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E.O. 11652, GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. SOVIET CARRIER SURPRISES TURKS

AMBASSADOR MACOMBER REPORTS THAT WHILE IN ISTANBUL JULY 18, HE PERSONALLY WITNESSED THE BOSPHORUS TRANSIT OF THE SOVIET AIRCRAFT CARRIER KIEV. THE AMBASSADOR:

--FEELS IT BEST THAT ANY INITIATIVE TO THE TURKISH MFA COME FROM A SIGNATORY TO THE MONTREUX CONVENTION, AS THERE ARE INDICATIONS THAT TURKEY HAD NO PRIOR KNOWLEDGE OF THE TRANSIT;

--SAYS UK OFFICIALS HAD SPECULATED THAT THE SCHEDULED TRANSIT OF SOVIET "CRUISER NUMBER 860" MIGHT TURN OUT TO BE THE KIEV'S; AND

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--SAW NO FIXED-WING AIRCRAFT ON DECK AND ONLY ONE HELI-

COPTER. (CONFIDENTIAL) ANKARA 5490 AND ISTANBUL 2660,
7/18.)

2. USNATO COOL TO AEGEAN DEMARCHE PROPOSALS

IN USNATO'S VIEW, NATO-RELATED PROBLEMS IN THE AEGEAN DO NOT OFFER SUFFICIENT LEVERAGE TO BE USEFUL IN URGING THE GREEKS AND TURKS TOWARD ACCOMMODATION. A COLLECTIVE NATO INITIATIVE, WHILE PERHAPS HELPING TO AVOID MAKING THE DISPUTE WORSE, IS LIKELY TO BE INEFFECTUAL, ALIENATE BOTH PARTIES AND INVITE RECRIMINATION. ACCORDING TO THE MISSION:

--THE PRESENT BILATERAL APPROACHES BY LUNS, THE US AND OTHER ALLIES APPEAR MORE USEFUL.

--THERE IS NO INDICATION OF WILLINGNESS ON THE PART OF THE ALLIES TO TAKE ACTION IN THE NATO CONTEXT SIMILAR TO NORWAY'S DURING THE COD WAR.

--LUNS MIGHT BE ABLE TO PLAY A USEFUL ROLE IN SUGGESTING STEPS TOWARD A SETTLEMENT ONCE THE GREEKS AND TURKS INDICATE A DESIRE TO HAVE A THIRD PARTY PROVIDE JUSTIFICATION FOR MOVES TOWARD ACCOMMODATION. (SECRET)
NATO 4006 (LIMDIS), 7/16.)

3. ITALY: PLANNING FOR THE HOLIDAYS

IN A JULY 15 STATEMENT, CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY SECRETARY ZACCAGNINI STRONGLY REAFFIRMED DC OPPOSITION TO COMMUNIST ENTRY INTO THE GOVERNMENT. THE PCI SHOULD PARTICIPATE, AS PART OF A "RESPONSIBLE" OPPOSITION, IN PROGRAMS DESIGNED TO OVERCOME THE CURRENT CRISIS. IN OTHER DEVELOPMENTS, EMBASSY ROME NOTES THAT ANDREOTTI:

--BEGAN DISCUSSIONS JULY 16 WITH ALL PARTIES EXCEPT THOSE ON THE EXTREME LEFT AND RIGHT; AND

--INVITED THE SOCIALISTS TO JOIN THE GOVERNMENT, OR ALTERNATIVELY TO SUPPORT A DC CABINET IN WHICH PSI "TECHNICIANS" PARTICIPATED ON AN INDIVIDUAL BASIS.
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EMBASSY COMMENT: IT APPEARS THAT THE PROCESS OF FORMING A GOVERNMENT WILL REQUIRE CONSIDERABLE TIME, WITH THE AUGUST 15 HOLIDAY PERIOD PROVIDING THE IMPETUS FOR COMPLETION. THE MOST LIKELY OUTCOME SEEMS A MINORITY DC INTERIM GOVERNMENT WITH OTHER-PARTY TECHNICIAN PARTICIPATION AND WITH THE SOCIALISTS LENDING INDIRECT SUPPORT THROUGH ABSTENTION.
(CONFIDENTIAL) ROME 11546, 7/17.)

4. MOROCCO HOPES TO AVOID EXTRAORDINARY SUMMIT

IN A RECENT INTERVIEW, MOROCCAN FOREIGN MINISTER LARAKI SAID THAT, AT AN EXTRAORDINARY OAU SUMMIT, ALGERIA WOULD "NEVER AGREE TO REOPENING DISCUSSIONS ON THE SAHARA." IN ADDITION, LARAKI:

--SAID ALGERIA WOULD PROBABLY ATTEMPT TO RAISE THE SAHARA ISSUE AT COLOMBO, BUT WOULD FAIL AS IT HAD AT PORT LOUIS; AND

--DESCRIBED THE SAHARA SITUATION AS "CALM" AND SAID UPCOMING ELECTIONS WOULD INCLUDE THE SAHARAN PROVINCES.

EMBASSY COMMENT: LARAKI'S REVELATION OF GOM PLANS TO INCLUDE THE SAHARA IN THE ELECTIONS SETS THE STAGE TO BLAME ALGERIA IF THE SAHARANS ARE UNABLE TO "EXPRESS" THEMSELVES DUE TO THE LEVEL OF VIOLENCE. AS FOR THE SUMMIT, THE GOM AND MAURITANIA WILL PROBABLY ATTEMPT TO SET PRECONDITIONS WHICH WILL EFFECTIVELY PRECLUDE IT. (CONFIDENTIAL) RABAT 3850, 7/17.)

5. DIPLOMATIC CORPS IN DACCA PUT ON THE ALERT

THE DEAN OF THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS IN BANGLADESH HAS PASSED ON TO HIS FELLOW CHIEFS OF MISSION A WARNING FROM THE BDG OF A POSSIBLE ATTACK AGAINST THE CORPS. ACCORDING TO EMBASSY DACCA:

--THERE ARE FEARS SUCH AN ATTACK MIGHT BE MADE TO EXERT LEVERAGE ON THE GOVERNMENT TO RELEASE NATIONAL SOCIALIST (JSD) PRISONERS CURRENTLY BEING TRIED.

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--THE US AND SOVIET AMBASSADORS WERE SPECIFICALLY CITED BY THE BDG AS POSSIBLE TARGETS, BUT THE WARNING WAS NOT CONFINED TO THEM.

--THE DEAN WAS REQUESTED TO INFORM THE BDG THAT THE WARNING DID NOT RELIEVE IT OF FULL RESPONSIBILITY TO PROTECT THE CORPS.

EMBASSY COMMENT: WHILE IT IS POSSIBLE THE WARNING RESULTS FROM NEW INTELLIGENCE ABOUT JSD INTENTIONS, IT MAY ALSO BE THE GOVERNMENT'S DELAYED REACTION TO EARLIER INTELLIGENCE ABOUT A POSSIBLE JSD HIJACKING WHICH CAUSED US TO TAKE OUR OWN PREVENTIVE MEASURES. (CONFIDENTIAL) DACCA 3639, 7/17.)

6. OMAN: ADDING A QABOOS TO THE GRAVY TRAIN?

AMBASSADOR WOLLE COMMENTS ON US USE OF MASIRAH AIRFIELD:

--THE OMANIS ARE HOPING, PERHAPS ASSUMING, THAT OUR INTEREST IN MASIRAH IS SO STRONG THAT WE WILL VOLUNTEER FINANCIAL OR TECHNICAL HELP IN ORDER TO PROTECT IT.

--THEY PROBABLY SEE THE LOGICAL MANIFESTATION OF THIS ASSISTANCE IN OUR ENABLING THEM TO MAINTAIN THE FACILITY AFTER THE RAF LEAVES.

--IT MAY BE QUESTIONABLE HOW LONG WE CAN CONTINUE LANDINGS WITHOUT AT LEAST INAUGURATING DISCUSSIONS ABOUT THE USE OF MASIRAH AFTER APRIL, 1977. (SECRET)
MUSCAT 865 (EXDIS), 7/18.) KISSINGER

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